

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A profiling service for accessing user data. The profiling service includes a hierarchical structure of profile objects. Each profile object contains true-data attributes and meta-data attributes associated to the true-data attributes. Methods in the profiling service allow a client to access user data according to meta-data attribute settings. The true-data attributes may include the user data, or an external reference to the user data. The profile objects may also include bindings to other profile objects. Meta-data attributes can be identified with a prefix field in a meta-data value field, and methods to read and write the true and meta-data attributes may be included in the profile objects. The methods may also set an owner, an access privilege, a group, a creation time, a update time, expiration time, a trigger location, a binding flag, and an assurance level of true-data attributes. The profile objects can include profile level meta-data attributes.

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